



Media Release

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DHS NAMES CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES DIRECTOR

Little Rock, Ark. – The Department of Human Services has selected Cecile Blucker to head the Division of Children and Family Services (DCFS). Blucker has served as Assistant Director of Community Services since September 2008.

Since 1983, Blucker has worked in many management positions including financial and operations. In her current role, Blucker oversees the field operations and the 757 employees that carry out casework duties.

“Managing the Office of Community Services is the most difficult management job in the department,” said Janie Huddleston, Interim Director for the Division of Children and Family Services and Deputy Director for the Department of Human Services. “Cecile has demonstrated that focusing on accountability and supporting the staff to do quality work are the cornerstones of improving the child welfare system.”

Blucker was selected following a broad national search and an evaluation by a selection committee, composed of members from the medical, juvenile court, and advocate communities.

“This is a pivotal role for our state, said John Selig, DHS Director. “We have gained a lot of momentum over the last few months, and we need someone who can continue to improve on those strengths and shore up the gaps in serving our families. Cecile has demonstrated her ability and commitment to take Arkansas’ child welfare system forward.”

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As an integral member of DCFS' Executive Team, Blucker has gathered some insight on the challenges that lay ahead.

"I am very pleased that I was selected, because I want to be part of the team that changes Arkansas' child welfare system," said Blucker. Blucker will assume her new role effective March 1, 2009.